

IRNA: Rushdie earned pardon

IRNA (R) — Iran's official news agency IRNA, in an abrupt reversal of its position, said Saturday that novelist Salman Rushdie had earned a pardon with his statement expressing regret for distress caused to Muslims by "The Satanic Verses," IRNA said. The statement, though too short of a retraction, is generally seen as sufficient enough to warrant his pardon by the masses in Iran and elsewhere in the world." Earlier reports by the government-run agency said Rushdie's statement fell short of the apology demanded by President Ali Khamenei during a Friday prayer service (see page 3). The IRNA statement, monitored in Nicola, came at the very end of a summary of an Iranian newspaper commentary saying that the price paid on Rushdie's head amounted to murder. The report said the Persian daily "Ettela'at" wrote that "to pay one man to kill another man is murder and a premium and not a religiously-inspired act." There was no immediate public reaction from Iranian officials or clerics to Rushdie's statement.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية - الرأي

Volume 14 Number 4615

AMMAN SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1989, RAJAB 12, 1409

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Crown Prince, Rifai, Hindawi, Khasawneh, other ministers, officials hold talks with Mayor King, Queen, Mayor review UNESCO role

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Saturday discussed issues related to environmental protection and preservation of archaeological sites in Jordan with the head of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

In a meeting with UNESCO Director-General Frederico Mayor, the King and Queen also discussed possibility of creating awareness of these issues through the educational system in Jordan.

Mayor briefed the King and Queen on UNESCO activities in the Kingdom and the organisation's global plans to raise public awareness of environmental and educational issues by the year 2000.

The UNESCO director-general stressed Jordan's great historical significance and the need to continue environmental protection and preservation of the monuments of the Kingdom's heritage.

Mayor, who visited Petra Friday, expressed deep appreciation of the historical significance of the ancient Nabataean city and UNESCO's interest in supporting



HM King Hussein

Jordan's efforts to preserve the archaeological monument through extending financial support and experienced specialists.

Mayor was the host of a conference on protection of environment held in Paris in October 1988 in which Queen Noor delivered a speech on environmental issues.

Earlier Saturday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with Mayor and discussed with him the role that UNESCO could play in preserving the religious and cultural heritage of the Holy City of Jerusalem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The Crown Prince urged UNESCO to adopt measures to safeguard Jerusalem's treasures, which are threatened with destruction, Petra said. Prince Hassan also called on the organisation to support the creation of a humanitarian order that guarantees human rights and ensure human dignity.

Prince Hassan and Mayor reviewed UNESCO's general programmes around the world and aspects of cooperation with Jordan in the fields of culture and education.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thounan Hindawi, the UNESCO representative in Jordan and the secretary general of the Higher

(Continued on page 3)



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday holds talks with UNESCO Director-General Frederico Mayor in a meeting attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thounan Hindawi



Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thounan Hindawi Friday presents the ministry's Medal of the First Order to UNESCO Director-General Frederico Mayor (Petra photo)

King grants amnesty to mark ACC founding

AMMAN (J.T.) — To mark this week's establishment of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), His Majesty King Hussein Saturday issued a decree ordering the release of all administrative detainees and all prisoners who have served more than half their respective sentences. The decree also reduced by half the sentences of those serving prison terms, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The King received more cables of congratulations Saturday on the proclamation of the council. Among the senders were Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan, Civil Defence Director Khaled Tarawneh, and the heads of municipal councils, representatives of Jordanian organisations and key public figures, Petra added.

The prime minister chaired a Cabinet meeting Saturday evening and briefed the ministers on the ACC founding meeting by the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen in Baghdad Thursday and the roles the King and the other ACC leaders played to bring the pan-Arab plan into being, Petra said.

The Cabinet decided to send a cable of support to the King, the agency added. The council

endorsed the ACC agreement and the decision will be submitted to the King for signature. The Cabinet also decided to issue postage stamps to commemorate the founding of the ACC.

The ACC is founded with the aim of increasing Arab cooperation in economic affairs and advancing efforts for pan-Arab economic integration within the framework of the Arab League Charter.

Madaba Governor Khalil Khreisat said the creation of the ACC was a practical step reflecting collective Arab action aimed at enhancing Arab solidarity. It was also in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revival, he said.

Madaba Mayor Ahmad Quteshi voiced similar sentiments and said Jordanians take pride in the great achievement.

The establishment of the ACC also continued to draw wide acclaim in other parts of the Arab World Saturday.

Thursday with the signing of its charter by the King, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

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Newspapers published in

Shevardnadze arrives today

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze arrives here Sunday on a short working visit during which he is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein for talks on prospects for peace in the Middle East and other issues of mutual concern. He will also hold talks with senior government leaders.

Shevardnadze, the first Soviet foreign minister to visit Jordan, arrived in Damascus Friday on a five-state Middle East visit with what he said was a new Soviet proposal for peace in the region.

No details were available but most analysts attach extreme importance to whatever proposal the Kremlin is putting forward for Middle East peace at this point in time.

Shevardnadze, whose itinerary includes Egypt, Iraq and Iran in addition to Syria and Jordan, held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Saturday after meeting with Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa Friday.

Shevardnadze expressed backing for Syria's stand on Middle East peace during talks with Assad, a presidential palace spokesman said.

"The Soviet leadership appreciates and supports the Syrian leadership's struggle for peace and stability in the region,"

and the Soviet foreign minister's

reconciliation bid in the Syrian capital might lead to a visit to Damascus by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

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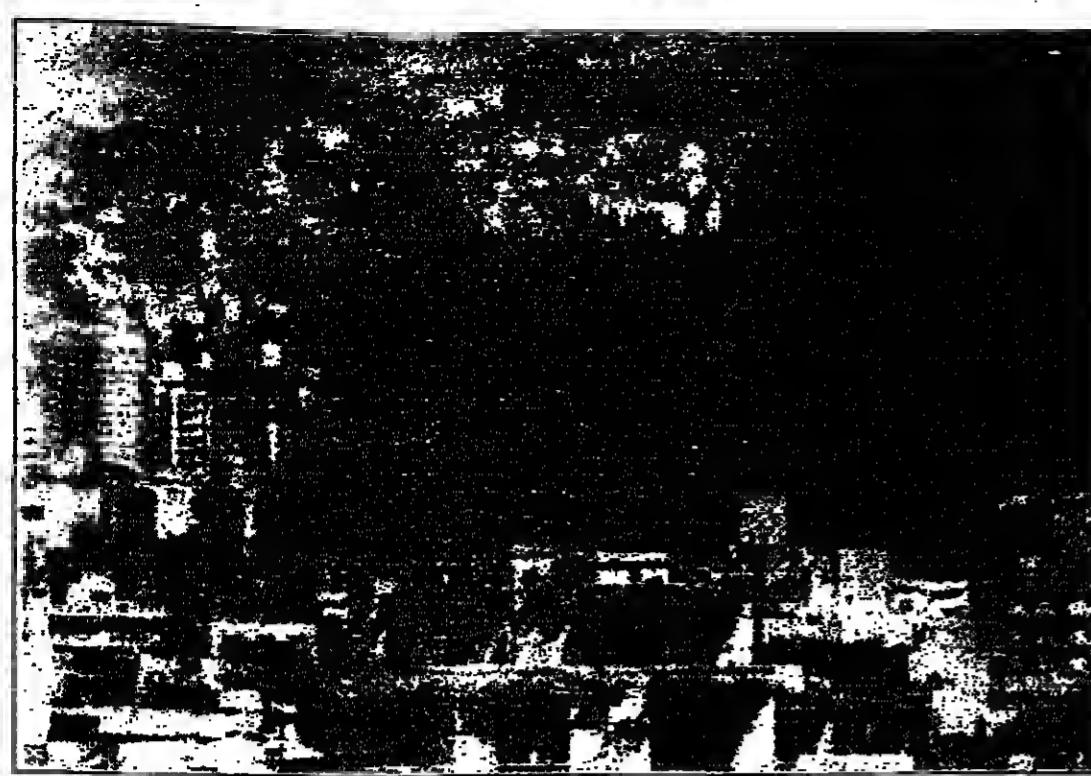
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Black smoke rises from a smouldering building set ablaze by fierce battles between Lebanese army troops and "Lebanese Forces" militiamen in east Beirut this week.

Aoun soldiers, 'Lebanese Forces' back in barracks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Army units and rightist militiamen returned to their barracks Saturday as mediators sought to bolster a ceasefire in the struggle for control of Lebanon's Christian heartland.

A police spokesman put the casualty toll from four days of clashes at 76 killed and 200 wounded.

The spokesman, speaking under ground rules of anonymity, said that around 2,500 army commandos and 2,000 Lebanese Forces militiamen involved in fighting that rocked east Beirut and the hills above the capital were confined to their barracks.

Reporters touring the area did not find any army or militia checkpoints on the main streets of Beirut's eastern sector or in the hillside suburbs, including the Aukar district that houses the U.S. embassy.

Lebanese staff from the embassy blocked the only road to the sprawling compound, telling reporters neither Ambassador John McCarthy nor any of his American staff were at the embassy.

The embassy shut down when it was caught in the cross-fire during Wednesday's fighting. Defense Department officials in Washington said at least 15 diplomatic workers were evacuated Friday to Cyprus, leaving another 25 behind.

Christians were engaged in a drive Saturday to avert a military showdown between the Lebanese Forces and the army.

Christian Maronite church officials began negotiations with "Lebanese Forces" militiamen from the streets to allow the army to take control.

Aoun said Friday that the militia must leave Beirut, stop levying taxes and close down its so-called National Development

Project.

was ready to make concessions for peace with the army, political sources said.

A committee of Christian deputies was also to meet army commander Major-General Michel Aoun to discuss ways of bridging the deep rifts between the two main rivals for power in the Christian enclave.

Aoun, who heads an interim military cabinet vying for power with a civilian government, rejected church mediation and threatened to crush the "Lebanese Forces" unless it met his demands.

"Either our proposals are carried out quickly and peacefully within a certain deadline or there will be a final decisive showdown," the Al Safir newspaper quoted him as saying.

Western diplomats warned that all-out conflict between the "Lebanese Forces" and Aoun's 15,000 troops would ravage the Christian enclave centred on east Beirut, left largely unscathed in almost 14 years of civil war.

Maronite Patriarch Boutros Sfeir mediated a truce between the rival forces Friday which stipulated the withdrawal of "Lebanese Forces" militiamen from the streets to allow the army to take control.

"Once this is ascertained, then we can say the ceasefire may last and the political requirements of durable peace can be tackled," the spokesman said.

Western diplomats said Turkey

had vowed to prevent the militia setting up a state-within-a-state in Christian areas and also said he had foiled an attempt by the militia to topple him.

Geagea, softening his usually hardline tone, replied that he was ready to pay any price to end blood-letting and denied that he tried to overthrow the 53-year-old general.

The six-member committee of parliamentarians committed between Aoun's hilltop command in suburban Yarze and Geagea's walled headquarters in the seaside Karantina district.

"There's going to make certain the Lebanese Forces fighters have all been withdrawn to their barracks," an army spokesman said.

"As with other countries, Turkey will of course appear again in a constructive role (in talks). We would not say flatly we would reject anything, any kind of modernisation."

"But we will have to observe and stand in conformity with the approaches of our NATO partners," Vuralhan said.

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Saturday approving an amendment to the law of the National Medical Institution (NMI). The decree establishes a board of trustees headed by the prime minister to direct the work of the NMI. The amendment also grants the head of NMI the authority of a minister in running that institution.

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued Saturday endorsing bylaws for the NMI's University's students fund. According to the bylaws distinguished students will be offered grants and loans and will be offered employment on the campus. (Petra)

COST OF MEDICAL TREATMENT: The Council of Ministers Saturday announced an amendment to a set of rates for the cost of medical treatment at Health Ministry hospitals and health centres. The amendment states that the beneficiaries will have to pay the cost price of the medicines and drugs plus a 10 per cent of the cost. (Petra)

MINISTERS RECEIVE CHINESE ENVOY: Minister of Supply Fayez Tarawneh; Minister of Social Development Dr. Fawaz Touqan and Public Security Department Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majahid received separately Chinese Ambassador in Amman Zhang Zhen at the conclusion of his tour of duty in Jordan. (Petra)

JD 182,000 BUDGET FOR GUVS: The Amman branch of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) will have a fiscal budget of JD 182,000 for 1989 according to the branch's Director Fakhri Bileisi. He said last year his branch offered JD 94,000 in assistance to charitable societies within the Amman area and JD 105,000 is expected to be distributed during the current year. (Petra)

COURSE ON CAPITAL INVESTMENTS: The Industrial Development Bank's Jordan Institute of Management Saturday opened a training course for directors and senior officials in industrial and financial institutions in Jordan and Oman. The two-week course aims to orient the participants on capital investments and decisions to be taken in that field. (Petra)

MERCHANTS FINED: The military court has fined a number of Jordanian merchants for violating Ministry of Supply regulations. Ahmad Qablan, Atta Mohammad Yassin were fined JD 40 each, Mohammad Ghaleb was fined JD 30 and Binal Tayseer Hassan was fined JD 20, while Raghib Al Hassan was fined JD 15. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: The first batch of People's Army recruits for 1989 Saturday began training courses. Taking part in the courses are employees from the district of Jerash and Ajloun. (Petra)

SILVER JUBILEE PARK: The Municipality of Ramtha, in cooperation with the Jordan University of Science and Technology, began the creation of a 25-dunum public park in Ramtha known as the Silver Jubilee Park. (Petra)

BOOK EXHIBITION: An exhibition of Arabic books was opened Saturday at the Karak Community College. The seven-day exhibition includes 15,000 books on science, education, and culture. (Petra)

KUFRUNJEH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: A total of 5,970 voters are eligible to take part in voting Sunday to elect a new municipal council for the town of Kufrunjeh in Ajloun district. District Governor Mohammad Al Aramad said that voting will start at seven in the morning and will continue until five in the evening. (Petra)

U.S. MIDEAST POLICY PROGRAMME: The American Cultural Centre in Amman will receive via satellite a special programme on "U.S. Middle East policy and the Arab-Israeli conflict" on Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. Participating from Washington will be Dr. William Quandt, former senior staff member for the Middle East on the National Security Council during the Carter administration, and Dr. Bernard Reich, professor of political science and international affairs and former chairman of the Department of Political Science at George Washington University. Both Quandt and Reich will exchange views via satellite with individuals in Bonn. (J.T.)

30 TRAINING COURSES FOR TEACHERS: Greater Amman Education Department held 30 training courses and seminars for new school supervisors, adult education staff, computer programmers and excelling students during the scholastic year 1987/1988, according to the department's annual report. The report said that the department last year recruited 1,410 teachers, who were distributed among the various department schools. The department's educational technologies section personnel paid inspection visits to 76 secondary schools, 37 preparatory schools and 22 elementary schools. (J.T.)

Experts discuss importance of fertilizers in agriculture

AMMAN (Petra): A three-day seminar, entitled "fertilizer trace elements opened at the University of Jordan Saturday.

Dr. Mahmoud Dweiri, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, delivered the main speech to the opening session, underlining the importance of the agricultural sector as the main source of income for Jordan and the majority of the Arab World, and the essential element in their national economies.

"Nearly 41 per cent of the total workforce in the Arab World is involved in agriculture which is the source of living for 53 per cent of the Arab population," Dweiri noted.

Dweiri referred to the Arab World's growing dependence on fertilizers to increase its agricultural production and noted that Jordan's imports of fertilizers rose to 40,000 tonnes in 1986 up from 14,000 tonnes in 1974.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Gourguessian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.

* The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.

* An exhibition of models of the Jordanian plastic art, in which 22 Jordanian artists are participating, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

* An exhibition entitled "The Tuebingen Atlas of the Middle East" at the Department of Geography, the University of Jordan.

* A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at the Yarmouk University.

* An exhibition of paintings of Jordan by Lutz Maria Robertson at the French Bank Gallery.

LECTURE

* A lecture, in French, on Western fashion development in the 19th century, by Françoise Petrovitch at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

* A film entitled "The Boy Who Never Was" (suitable for children) at the British Council — 4:00 p.m.

* A film entitled "Kramer vs. Kramer" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



INFORMATION TALKS — Inspector-General Frederico Mayor and a delegation accompanying him on information-related issues (Petra photo)

Dakhqan, World Bank team discuss water, sewerage projects in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.): — Water and sewerage projects in Jordan being executed by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation were discussed here Saturday at a meeting grouping Jordanian officials and a World Bank team.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan briefed the team on these projects and discussed prospects for cooperation with the World Bank in implementing such schemes in the Kingdom.

Dakhqan also talked about the ministry's drive to ensure sufficient water supply to all citizens in various parts of the Kingdom and explained the ministry's wa-

ter strategy which aims to help expand the agricultural lands in the country through the exploitation of water resources.

Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Director Mu'taz Bileisi, who attended the meeting, spoke on the authority's programmes to supply water to different parts of the country and the current plans to complete the sewerage network.

According to the WAJ's five-year plan, which ends in 1990, Bileisi said nearly 70 per cent of the country will be covered by sewerage networks.

The World Bank team, whose members are currently on a visit

here to determine the bank's contributions to the Kingdom's water and sewerage projects, later called at the Kherbet Al Samra wastewater treatment plant and inspected its operations.

Last November, Dakhqan told a seminar here that Jordan expected to require nearly 266 million cubic metres of water for annual consumption by the year 2005.

He said the Ministry of Water and Irrigation plans to intensify efforts to provide sufficient amounts through prospecting for new resources and through the construction of dams and drilling additional artesian wells.

The discussions will be conducted through the general assemblies of the two companies to be co-chaired by the Ministers of Transport in Jordan and Syria.

AMMAN (J.T.): — Jordan and Syria will open talks in Damascus Sunday on means of promoting the operations by their joint land and maritime transport companies, and will discuss the prospect of expanding the joint merchant fleet.

The discussions will be conducted through the general assemblies of the two companies to be co-chaired by the Ministers of Transport in Jordan and Syria.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meetings which, according to officials here, will also review the two companies' 1989 budgets.

On the eve of the meeting, Haj Hassan said that the two sides will look into the technical position of the Land Transport Company, and its vehicle maintenance operations.

ACC plans to reschedule settlement of Jordan Valley farmers' loans

AMMAN (J.T.): — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) plans to reschedule the settlement of loans due on farmers in the Jordan Valley whose crops were damaged by the recent wave of frost, and the farmers will be required to pay their debts in the next year, ACC Director General Sami Sunna announced in a newspaper interview published Saturday.

Sunna said it is hoped that the Jordan Valley farmers will now embark on planting summer vegetables such as tomatoes, melons and maize.

We are deeply concerned over the status of the Jordan Valley farmers whose lands produce most of the country's crops, Sunna noted.

He said loans due to these farmers account for 40 per cent of the total loans given to farmers in the whole country, or a sum of JD 12 million out of a JD 20 million given to all farmers in Jordan in the form of loans.

The ACC can reschedule the settlement of debts, but has no power to exempt farmers from settling their loans, Sunna said in a statement to Al Dustour daily newspaper.

He said that the government does not provide the ACC with

direct charge of the vessel to transport goods between the Arab region and north and north-western Europe, according to the announcement last August.

It said that the joint company will receive a certain percentage of the profits collected by the ship for transporting goods, but this should not be less than one third of the company's annual administrative and operational expenses or nearly one million Syrian pounds.

The new vessel, which has a net loading capacity of 5,500 tonnes, will be joining "Barada" and "Yarmouk", the other two vessels owned by the joint company, which was established in 1979.

Haj Hassan did not disclose whether the ship will be solely owned by the joint company or whether last year's tentative agreement will be endorsed.

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Training course for English language teachers opens at Yarmouk University

IRBID (Petra): — A two-month training course for teachers of English language in Irbid Governorate opened at Yarmouk University's languages centre Saturday.

The course, which is attended by 30 teachers working at secondary schools operated by the Ministry of Education.

The participants will hear lectures and do practical work using the latest methods in teaching the language.

Also at Yarmouk University, an exhibition of photographs was organised in cooperation with the

الجامعة الأردنية للحاسبات الالكترونية

JORDAN COMPUTER SOCIETY

The Jordan Computer Society invites

members and those interested to a lecture on:

New Trends in Information Technology

Jean Jacques Duby

group director, Science & Technology, IBM (Europe)

ex-director, Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (France)

on Sunday 19/2/1989, 6:30 p.m.

at the lecture hall, Amman Chamber of Commerce, Shmeissani

IRS REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE

A representative of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be available on the following dates to answer questions and provide information on U.S. income tax filing:

Sunday, February 26:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

Monday, February 27:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.: Taxpayers' seminar at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

Tuesday, February 28:

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Individual sessions at the American Center, 3rd Circle.

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.: Individual sessions in the Consular Section, American Embassy.

For further information please call 644371 ext. 233.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1973

جordan Times جريدة عربية مستقلة يومية مطبوعة باللغة الإنجليزية

Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times Advertising Department.

U.S. double standard

THE ARAB World, including the Palestinians struggling under Israeli occupation, never thought for a moment that a resolution by the U.N. Security Council by itself would bring them salvation or deliver them from evil. At best U.N. resolutions establish legitimate international norms for humanity to heed. Yet it is shocking to watch the U.S. government vetoing one resolution after the other on the situation in the Middle East, the latest on Friday when it vetoed a resolution condemning Israel's grave violations of human rights in the occupied territories.

It was only a week ago that the U.S. State Department issued its 1988 human rights report on the West Bank and Gaza Strip and found that the Israeli human rights record in the occupied territories was abominable. One would have thought that at least this time the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Security Council would have no trouble voting in support of the draft resolution on the situation in these territories on the strength of the U.S. report. After all the projected resolution did not go farther than the U.S. report on the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and therefore it would have been natural and logical to win the U.S. vote this time at least.

The only redeeming factor in the latest U.N. Security Council encounter is the crystal clear revelation that Washington's allies do not see eye to eye with it on the Palestinian case. The words and votes of the Western European members of the Security Council suggest a deep rift between them and the U.S., not only on the Palestinian uprising but also on the fundamentals of the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel is of course taking a great comfort from all this and the latest reports from Tel Aviv suggest that the Israeli leaders are even gloating about the widening rift between Europe and the U.S. on the Middle East issue. Meanwhile the latest signals from the new American administration should give the Arab World some food for thought and should propel the Arab World to positive reactions. The just announced Arab Cooperation Council is a clear signal to the U.S. as well as to the whole world that the Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict will henceforth exercise more and more self-reliance in their pursuit of a just and permanent settlement. The more the U.S. alienates the Arab World with its unfortunate record at the U.N. on the Arab-Israeli conflict the more this will serve as a propeller for Arabs to achieve a higher level of self-reliance. In the final analysis, such Arab formations whether in the Maghreb, the Mashreq or the Gulf would be translated to political, military and economic Arab muscle that could hurt Israel more than the U.N. resolutions.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Commenting on the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in Baghdad on Thursday, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the masses in Egypt, North Yemen, Iraq and Jordan were overwhelmed with joy and have expressed their feelings through their manifestations in the streets. The Arab masses feel that the Baghdad proclamation was part of the serious endeavours on the part of their leaders to achieve national aspirations for the whole Arab World, the paper noted. It said that the Arab people believe that through economic integration, the Arabs can first form strong economic groupings, which are needed at present to counter the effects of other alliances, and safeguard Arab national interest. It said that apart from achieving balance with other groupings, the Arab Cooperation Council will pave the ground for a greater measure of inter-Arab cooperation which is an essential element for unity. But the paper said that the miniature unity achieved in Baghdad is a source of threat to the enemies of the Arab World and, therefore, it would not be surprising to see these enemies expressing their concern and fear of such unity by launching hostile propaganda campaigns against the Arab Nation.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, columnist Fahed Al Fanek says that the rejoicing by the Arab masses over the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council far exceeded the event itself not because the Arab masses did not understand this important step but because they saw in it an open door leading towards further accomplishments towards Arab unity. The writer says the Arab masses have all the right to think so because previous attempts on the part of a number of Arab countries towards achieving unity or merger ended in failure. The new step is a miniature unity among Arab states and could be considered as a little step or rather a seed which could be nurtured to grow up and become a fruitful tree; the writer adds. He says the economic unity between 80 million people living in the four Arab countries is indeed a new step towards a greater opportunity; and if the economic cooperation is promoted among the four members of the council, the way would be open for politicians, intellectuals, journalists, university professors and professionals of all kinds to meet and pave the ground for other forms of cooperation in their respective fields. Despite the fact that Jordan possesses the smallest area, he adds, the least volume of population and natural resources, its active people can and should take the initiative to stimulate such cohesion among the four countries.

Al Dustour daily described the Arab Cooperation Council as embodying the dreams of the Arab masses, and for this reason these masses went out into the streets in a show of joy and delight over the historic event. The paper said that the overwhelming positive reactions and the great welcome for this great step as expressed by people of all walks of life throughout the Arab World is a clear indication of the feelings of the Arab citizens and their aspirations for unity. The paper said that the proclamation of the Arab Cooperation Council was a fulfilment of part of the Arab masses' dream, and is seen as a new dawn for a bright future. As the Arabs continue to express their joy over the event, the Jordanian people take pride in the role played by King Hussein to make this dream come true, the paper noted. It said that the King's efforts coupled with those of the leaders of Egypt, North Yemen and Iraq continue to fill the hearts of Arab masses with hope that further steps on the road to unity will be achieved.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Jordan stands to benefit from ACC

ON FEBRUARY 16, the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) was formally born as a regional entity that comprised some 80 million Arabs in four major and central Arab countries with a combined market of no less than \$80 billion a year of aggregate demand on goods and services.

The group includes the Arab country with the largest population (Egypt), the Arab country with the strongest army (Iraq), and the Arab country with the most dynamic private sector (Jordan).

The cooperation will be basically economical, at least at this stage, and may develop gradually later on to cover other vital areas such as politics, national security, and social affairs.

Jordan stands to benefit tremendously from its active membership in the ACC, which justifies the major role played by the Jordanian leadership in the creation, promotion and implementation of the project.

Foreign observers may argue that the economic benefits that may accrue to the members will be minor, because the four countries are not currently in the best of financial positions. Their markets, they point out, are limited, their productive bases are not big, and their economic and political systems differ widely.

It is because of these very facts that the cooperation is needed, not as a simple addition of weaknesses, but as a creative

integration of factors which will start a growth dynamism of its own.

Jordan in particular will find a much larger market for its products. It is true that we already have extensive trading relations with all the other three partners, but these relations were always based on agreements that were valid for a year. Such short term concepts do not allow longer term planning, nor give rise to new investments.

The unemployed — skilled labourers, managers and talented professionals will find new job opportunities, especially in Iraq and Yemen. Jordanian contractors are well qualified to take part in the coming Iraqi construction boom.

Although Jordan is the smallest of the four partners, it has the most active private sector. The Jordanian private sector should be able to identify the vast opportunities that will present themselves within the ACC countries. One can safely assume that the Jordanian industry is relatively efficient, both technically and economically, and has huge idle capacity to activate and compete on the markets are opened and available.

Even the financial, and monetary problems and the external indebtedness crisis could be alleviated through the newly acquired bargaining power that Jordan now has as a member in an important and credible community.

The interaction among the four partners in the new community will not be confined to the governmental level. All categories of the society will be active, including politicians, businessmen, journalists, intellectuals, capitalists, labourers, educators and technicians.

All institutions will be active — political parties, universities, professional unions, chambers of commerce, industry and agriculture institutions, labour unions, and other financial and economic institutions.

The position of Jordan, its history, geography, social structure and circumstances and its choice as the capital of the ACC, will place on its shoulders the responsibility of acting as a catalyst and engine for further national cooperation.

One should not be overly impressed by the creation of ACC and its moderate objectives. Jordanian and Arab aspirations are much higher. But people are happy to have this window of opportunity opened, one that could be capitalised on and developed into a greater, more ambitious project. The painful contemporary Arab retreat that started in 1967 by the humiliating defeat at the hands of the Israeli aggressors, is giving way to a promising Arab recovery and resurrection which started with the Amman summit conference in 1987, gained momentum by the Palestinian uprising in 1988, and may stay the course through the formation of ACC.

Israel: 'The status quo is a no-exit road'

By Anthony Lewis

"Mr. Prime Minister, to achieve order in the Casbah I have to act brutally toward people free of crime, too. I feel humiliated by this behaviour. The situation has become a catastrophe. It's breaking us and strengthening the Arabs."

— An Israeli soldier, when Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir visited troops in the West Bank city of Nablus last month.

NEW YORK — For 14 months now Israel has been trying to suppress the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, by force. Increasingly severe measures have exacted a heavy price on the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

At least 347 Palestinians have been killed; 20,000 have been wounded.

In 1988, 20,000 Palestinians were imprisoned — some after prosecution, more detained without trial on suspicion of participating in the uprising.

By military order, 157 Palestinian homes have been blown up and 54 sealed because someone in the family was suspected. Forty-five suspected leaders of the uprising have been deported.

Villages, refugee camps and even cities have been kept under

curfew for days and weeks at a time. Telephone lines have been cut here and there, and international calls blocked to and from all of the West Bank and Gaza.

The measures taken by Israel against the uprising are laid out in the current issue of *The New Yorker* in a piece by Amos Elon, the noted Israeli writer. It is a powerful account of the human cost of these 14 months.

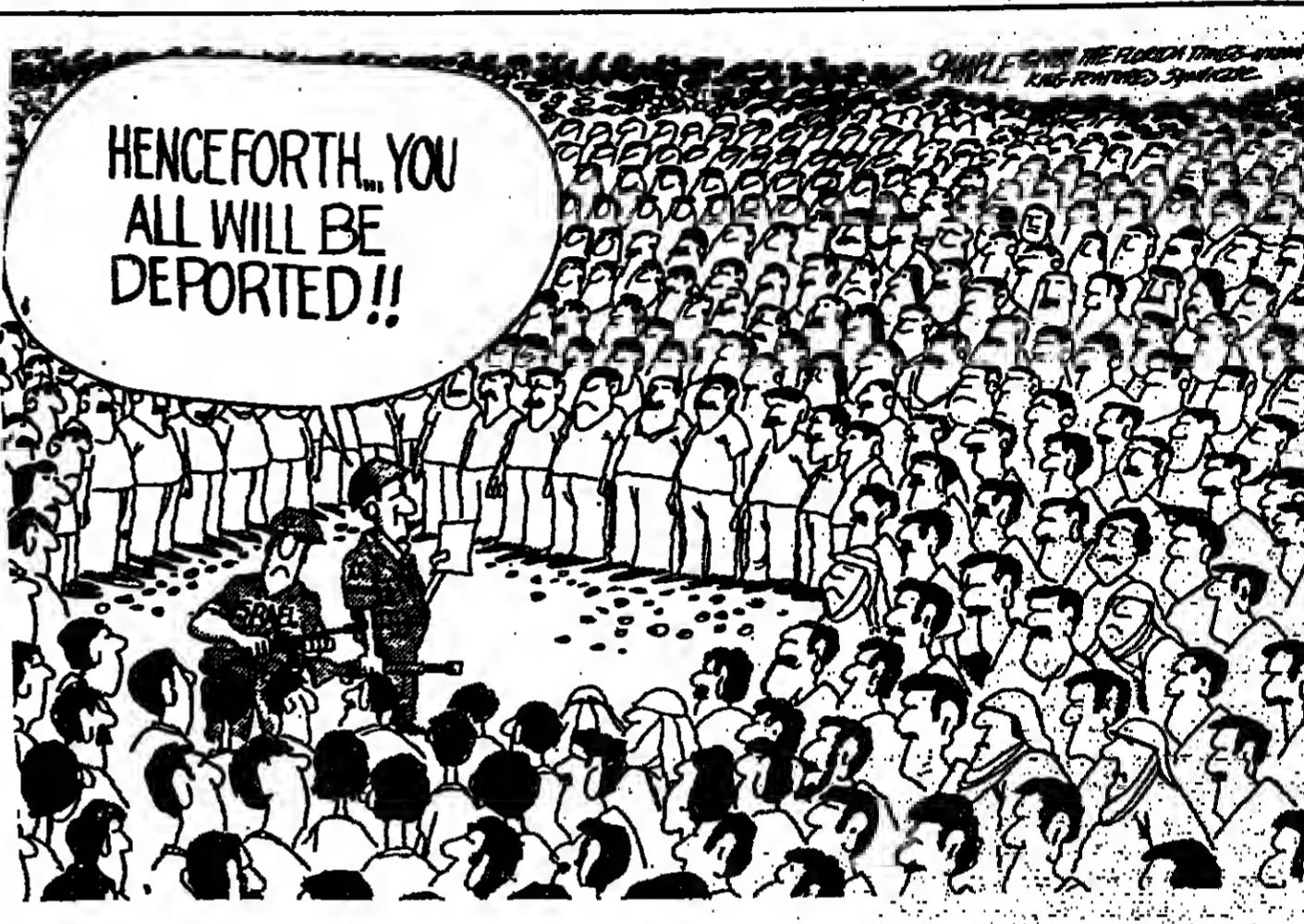
But Israel has paid a higher price for its policy than have the Palestinians. That is the conclusion to which anyone reading Elon's somber article must come.

Israel now has three times as many soldiers on duty in the West Bank as the number needed to conquer it in 1967. They are doing policing that embitters many of them and, their officers fear, makes the army less ready for its real job of defending Israel's security.

The sense of law, so fundamental to the Jewish tradition, has been corrupted. Despite strong evidence of soldiers violating orders in the beating and killing of Palestinians, hardly any have been seriously penalised.

In the U.S. view, various measures have violated international law. The idea of collective punishment has insidiously taken over from individual guilt.

The financial cost to Israel is



high: at least \$2 billion so far; some say nearer \$3 billion. That includes direct military expenditure, the decline in tourism and the impact on the economy of increasing military reserve call-ups to 60 days a year.

It all adds up to what the soldier told Shamir in Nablus: a catastrophe for Israel. That a soldier spoke as he did — and others, too — was a tribute to the democratic character of Israel. But the country's political leadership today is not up to the soldier's level of candour and honour in facing reality.

The coalition government's

policy remains based on force. But force has not stopped the uprising so far. What more brutal measures would be "effective"?

Top military officials have been warning that it is not a military problem. The chief of staff, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, said: "There is no such thing as eradicating the uprising, because in its essence it expresses the struggle of nationalism."

In short, the solution to the intifada can only be political. That means talking to the Palestinians. And that in turn means talking to the PLO. By now those who are not willfully blind know

that the Palestinians in the territories want no one but the PLO as their negotiator.

Israelis are coming to accept that difficult reality. A recent poll showed 54 per cent in favour of talking with the PLO. But the government spends its energy defending the reality. It says it will never talk with the PLO. Instead of encouraging the main-line Palestinian leadership's historic move toward a political settlement, it plays up the irreconcilable PLO extremist factions.

"I can't help being a realist," Varon wrote. "The status quo intifada — is a no-exit road." — The New York Times

West German SPD produces a new party programme

By Karl Zander

BONN (DaD) — The Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) intends to produce in its future programme "conclusive answers to the challenges of today." SPD chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel said that the other political parties would have to take note of this competition. He was speaking at the presentation of the principles for the new party programme. The party will make decisions on this programme in a special party conference in Bremen at the end of the year. It will replace the Godesberg Programme which was drawn up in 1959 and has been valid for the party until now. It was originally planned to hold the party programme conference at the end of August, but Vogel wants to give the 900,000 party members more time to discuss the proposals.

Vogel has combined the principles of the future party programme under "tea headings." These show that the SPD, which regards itself as a "liberal national party of the left" will retain the basic values of the Godesberg Programme, but adjustments will be made to take into account the many changes in politics and life which have taken place over the 30 years since the Godesberg Programme was drawn up.

In 1959 nuclear energy seemed to the SPD to be a considerable step forward without any negative consequences. Thirty years ago the role of the developing countries in international affairs was not recognised fully; the European Community has since then made considerable progress in integration; new social movements have emerged and more and more women are unwilling to go along with the role in society traditionally allocated to them; there are more and more ambivalence between technical development and economic growth becomes obvious.

These developments will be taken into account in the new

SPD programme and assessed

against the basic values of social democracy. The "modernisers" in the party around Hans-Jochen Vogel and his deputy, Oskar Lafontaine, have been able to push their ideas through. At points where it was not possible to reach agreement with the "traditional left-wing" of the party, a decision was taken by a majority vote in the programme committee — in line with Vogel's and Lafontaine's thinking. This decision was of vital importance on the question of the economy, where a minority recommended

right-wing principles.

"Freedom is for us

the freedom of each

person including people

who think differently.

Freedom for a few would be privilege."

The statements on the economy were linked to the Godesberg Programme with adjustments to meet the requirements of today. The central statement of "Competition as far as possible, planning as far as necessary" was literally adopted. Emphasis was given to the view that market forces and competition were indispensable. Where powers of the market are overtaken, the state should pre-determine the framework and direct the economy against undesirable trends through regulations and prohibitions, nevertheless not directly intervening in private companies.

The statements of principle of

the proposals show that the SPD

is striving for a society in which

every person can develop his

personality in freedom.

The proposals point out that "Freedom is for us

the freedom of each person

including people who think dif-

ferently. Freedom for a few

would be privilege."

And yet resettlement of re-

fugees in Italy has slowed down in

response to political opposition as

well as the pressure from neigh-

bouring European countries,

especially West Germany and

France, to "plug loopholes" that

allow entrants to filter through

loosely controlled borders.

A rightist outcry over the influx

of Third World (non-white) re-

fugees has created its own back-

lash among the more reasonable

politicians and media personali-

ties. Renzo Arbore, a television

newscaster, recently urged his au-

dience to "be friendly to the

refugee, give him a smile, show

solidarity with him and be hospit-

able... a refugee needs this."

At least 10,000 refugees are

OPEC gradually slows oil production

NEW YORK (Agencies) — OPEC pumped an estimated 19.33 million barrels of oil per day (b/d) in the first two weeks of February, a drop from January levels as members adapted to new quotas, oil analysts said Friday.

OPEC pumped 19.55 million b/d last month, above the official ceiling adopted last November of 18.5 million b/d for the first half of 1989.

Based on the early estimates, analysts predict the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) total February output could decline to an average of 19.0 million b/d.

"There is a gradual slowdown in production," said Vahan Zanoyan, managing director of the Petroleum Finance Co. "There is some (production) discipline."

Output by the 13-member group has declined steadily since December, when the group pumped a seven-year high of 22.76 million b/d, according to a Reuters survey.

Indonesian Oil Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita said Thursday OPEC's January output was below 19 million b/d. He gave no estimate for the first half of February.

The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have lowered their production so far this month, while output in Iran and Kuwait rose, analysts said. Pro-

duction in Ecuador, Iraq and Nigeria was unchanged.

Analysts said OPEC lowered its output due to increased production discipline and declining world demand.

"My sense is that the buyers are buying a little less because of (declining) seasonal demand, and that will probably drop further," said Dillard Spriggs, president of Petroleum Analysis Ltd.

"Oil prices are holding things together," said a supply analyst at a major U.S. oil company. "The United Arab Emirates, for instance, is more willing to reduce production when prices are firm."

The United Arab Emirates showed the largest drop, with production declining to 1.3 million b/d in the first half of February from 1.41 million b/d in January.

Saudi Arabia's output fell about 20,000 b/d to 4.67 million b/d but is expected to average near the kingdom's quota of 4.524 million b/d for the entire month, analysts said.

Iran and possibly Kuwait raised output during the first half of February. Iran's estimated output rose about 40,000 b/d to 2.68

million b/d, while Kuwait's output may have jumped about 20,000 b/d to 1.2 million b/d, analysts said.

Analysts view Iran's output as unpredictable. "Iran operates with a mercantile strategy, locking in others to the lowest production level, then squeezing every extra nickel out of the deal without ruining the deal," said the supply analyst.

Worldwide oil demand is expected to drop on a seasonal basis by March, putting more pressure on OPEC to maintain production and price discipline, analysts said.

While oil prices enjoy the fruits of the lower output March energy futures traded up 20 cents at \$18.53 a barrel in New York Friday afternoon — analysts were not sure how long the reduced supply will last.

"If prices are firm, there is a temptation to cheat on quotas," said Petroleum Finance Co's Zanoyan. "If prices are not firm, there is a temptation to cheat by trying to make up in volume what is lost on lower prices."

Analysts said the key measure of OPEC's success will come in the second quarter, when world oil demand historically drops.

British North Sea oil output seen at 7-year low

Meanwhile, accidents on oil installations have cut Britain's North Sea crude output to its

lowest level since late 1981, according to London stockbroker James Capel and Co.

Its preliminary estimate of 1.8 million b/d in January published Friday compares with 2.04 million b/d last December and 2.56 million b/d a year earlier.

Most output from six oil fields was still shut after an explosion and fire destroyed Occidental Petroleum Corp's Piper Alpha platform last July, killing 167 men.

Three other fields closed during January after a storage tanker broke from its moorings and the Brent Delta platform shut for the whole month after a gas leak.

At its worst, some 550,000 b/d or up to 22 per cent of British oil output was lost, according to an energy department spokesman. But the amount of lost production is now 15 or 19 per cent as some fields slowly resume operations, he said.

The spokesman said North Sea output would continue to be depressed this year by the effect of the Piper Alpha and other accidents. That could mean 95 to 115 million tonnes this year versus more than 115 million tonnes last year.

But the government has revised upwards its projections for future output due to new field discoveries and techniques which make it cheaper to extract oil from small, marginal fields.

For instance, the forecast for 1992 of 85 to 115 million tonnes

has risen from 70 to 105 million tonnes a year ago.

However, output has been falling steadily as giant, mature fields dry up and the government does not again expect to match the 1985 peak of 127 million tonnes.

Mexico offers reduction in oil exports

On the other hand, Mexico's energy minister offered Friday to reduce oil exports by up to six per cent if other independent producers limit their exports and OPEC producers stick to their production agreement.

"We are ready to reduce our export platform if it serves for something, if everyone does the same, if OPEC fulfills its objectives and if the other non-OPEC countries are ready to contribute," Fernando Hiriart told reporters Friday.

Asked how much Mexico was willing to cut exports, Hiriart said it "would not be more than five or six per cent" of the country's current level.

Mexico, which is not a member of OPEC, exported around 1.35 million b/d of crude last year.

Hiriart said the offer would be taken up at a Feb. 21 meeting of independent producers and members of the OPEC group.

President Carlos Salinas De Gortari's 1988 budget, presented to the Mexican congress in December, assumes target prices of \$10 a barrel and an export reduction of about five per cent to 1.3 million barrels a day.

As export prices for Mexican crude dropped below \$10 a barrel in October, Hiriart blasted OPEC producers for overproduction and engaging in a price war that jeopardised Mexico's share in its principal market, the United States.

Oil sales are Mexico's leading source of foreign income.

Mexico, the world's sixth-largest oil producer, softened its stand after OPEC agreed to cut production by four million barrels a day to 18.5 million barrels a day.

Montazeri said Iran had the resources and population to build an independent economy, but the government must eliminate cumbersome bureaucracy which encouraged economic corruption.

He added that the country could not effectively fight social corruption while three to four million people were out of work, inflation was growing and goods

Iran's future leader labels foreign borrowing 'enslaving'

were in short supply.

Turkey, Iran agree to increase trade volume

Meanwhile, Turkey and Iran agreed to increase their trade volume to \$2 billion this year in a protocol signed Friday at the end of a joint economic commission meeting.

State Minister Yusuf Ozal told a news conference in Ankara that Turkey will export chemical and industrial goods worth \$1 billion to Iran in 1989. And in return, he said Turkey will buy five million tonnes of oil from Iran.

Ozal said the two sides also decided to start preliminary studies to set up a power grid connection between Turkey and Iran.

Iranian Heavy Industry Minis-

U.S. '88 trade deficit shrinks to \$137 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit in 1988 shrank to \$137.34 billion, its lowest level in three years, as American exports increased at three times the rate of import growth, the government said Friday.

For December alone, the deficit narrowed slightly to \$11.89 billion from \$12.22 billion in November as exports jumped 6.0 per cent to a monthly record of \$29.19 billion, outpacing a 3.2 per cent rise in imports to \$41.09 billion, also a record.

The export boom appeared to level off toward the end of 1988, while foreign goods continued pouring into the country at a brisk pace, leading some economists to conclude that the strides the country made in its trade balance have stalled.

The December deficit was in line with the expectations of Wall Street economists and therefore had no more than a momentary impact on financial markets, which closely follow the government's monthly trade reports.

Reuters announces 20.5% pre-tax profit increase

London (R) — The international news and information agency Reuters Holdings PLC has said its pre-tax profits rose by 20.5 per cent in 1988.

Reuters managing director Glyn Renfrew said in a statement accompanying the company's annual results he expected a recent rationalisation programme and several new products to aid the group's performance in the current year.

"Gross new orders for Reuters products remain strong and, although cancellations are still heavy, the net new order rate is high enough to generate continued good growth," he said.

Reuters said pre-tax profits rose 20.5 per cent to £214.5 million (£376 million) in the year ending Dec. 31, 1988. The pre-tax profit margin had increased to 21.5 per cent from 20.6 per cent.

Renfrew said: "Barring additional major setbacks for financial markets or substantial further strengthening of sterling, Reuters should continue to do well."

"I think the big difference this year is that we have four, at least four, major new products coming on at once... more than we've ever had at once," he said.

Renfrew said new products this year include a general upgrading of real-time information products, a service called "Dealing 2000" to generate more fees from foreign exchange transactions, a trading room system known as "Triarch 2000" and expansion in historical information services.

"I think we're very well equipped to grow," he said.

Renfrew declined comment when asked if Reuters' "A" shareholders were negotiating an agreement which would enable them to sell some or all of their stock.

Reuters "A" shareholders, who have not sold any stock since the company was floated publicly in 1984, consist of major news paper and media interests.

The shares are held mainly by the Press Association News Agency of Britain, the Australian Associated Press and interests linked to publishers Rupert Murdoch, Robert Maxwell, George Rothermere, Lord Stevens of Ludgate, Conrad Black, Roland "Davy" Rowland and the Canadian "Financial Times" newspaper.

Reuters said it had rationalised its management structure and attacked the costs of marketing, development, editorial and overheads. The group's structure is now based on three geographical areas instead of four and several regional administrations have been eliminated.

Five product groups have been created to handle marketing and development.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, Feb. 18, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
French franc	531.8	542.5
Japanese yen (for 100)	933.9	963.1
Dutch guilder	525.0	530.0
Swedish krona	292.4	295.4
Belgian franc (for 100)	344.5	342.0
Swiss franc	130.4	131.7

Third World warns EC about dangers of structural adjustment

BRASSEVILLE (R) — Third World nations Friday urged the European Community (EC) to avoid tying a new trade and aid treaty to programmes that might damage developing economies.

They made their plea towards the end of a two-day ministerial meeting between the 66-member group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations and the EC to discuss replacing the current five-year Lome Convention, which is worth about \$9.5 billion and which expires in 1990.

The ACP argued that existing World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) programmes, which help finance imports by cutting public spending, were too concerned with figures and have in the past had disastrous social side-effects.

"We will discuss conditionality but will not accept conditions the same as offered by the World Bank and the IMF," one ACP diplomat said.

"To be honest," he said, "we are not concerned with figures and have in the past had disastrous social side-effects."

"We would now like to come back to the main road," he said.

Hungary's banking system must be revaluated and entrepreneurship should no longer be viewed with suspicion.

Hungary opens E. Europe's first Western-style banking school

HUNGARY (R) — Hungary Friday opened Eastern Europe's first school of Western-style banking, the latest sign of its determination to push towards a market economy.

Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth told the opening ceremony of the school, a joint venture with a French organisation, that what he called "distorted ideology" had taken Hungary away from the main lines of development in Europe.

"We would now like to come back to the main road," he said.

Hungary's banking system must be revaluated and entrepreneurship should no longer be viewed with suspicion.

"That's too much of a black and white picture. We have to coordinate with the IMF and World Bank. The Community isn't quite sure what it wants," said one senior EC diplomat, who declined to be named.

Some EC donors say Lome aid could be better spent if it were focused on individual structural adjustment schemes, but the ACP fears the EC will coordinate closely with the World Bank and IMF and will devise programmes with conditions similar to those of the Washington-based agencies.

"We will discuss conditionality but will not accept conditions the same as offered by the World Bank and the IMF," one ACP diplomat said.

"To be honest," he said, "we are not concerned with figures and have in the past had disastrous social side-effects."

"We would now like to come back to the main road," he said.

Hungary's banking system must be revaluated and entrepreneurship should no longer be viewed with suspicion.

He hoped the centre would become a focus of banker training in Eastern Europe, and later of Central Europe.

The International Training Centre for Bankers Ltd. is a joint venture of 28 Hungarian financial groups and the Paris-based Centre International de Formation de la Profession Bancaire.

Representing the French partner, Jean Montaillard said the Hungarian and French banking systems were part of the same family but had been "separated" for some time.

"Now I have the feeling we are meeting again," he said.

The centre is another step towards Hungary's desire to

readopt a market economy with tools and instruments usually regarded as capitalist.

Hungarian, Italian and U.S. businessmen founded a business

school last November to train Hungarians as Western-style managers. A stock exchange, suppressed after the communist takeover 40 years ago, reopened in January.

British inflation rises to highest level in six years

LONDON (R) — British inflation hit a six-year high last month despite government efforts to curb consumer spending and cool a booming economy.

The official retail price index, one of the main indicators of the

economy, showed the annual inflation rate rising sharply to 7.5 per cent in January from 6.8 per cent in December. It was the highest annual rate since September 1982.

Inflation, the government's declared number one economic enemy, has spiralled from 3.3 per cent a year ago, driven in part by interest rates rises. Bank base rates have climbed in nine steps from 7.5 per cent in June to 13 per cent.

Employment Secretary Norman Fowler blamed the jump on higher home loan mortgage rates, reflecting rises in bank rates, and higher motor insurance premiums, food costs and rail fares.

"The government remains determined to bring inflation down and that is indicated by the chancellor's action in raising interest rates... however, one consequence of this is that inflation has risen in the short term," he said in a statement.

For B.P., reduced profits upstream as a result of lower oil prices are partially offset by good margins in the downstream oil and chemical businesses. These may not be as high as in 1988 because of intensifying competition," he noted.

B.P. was still on the lookout for opportunities to add value to its core businesses. He said the planned sale of mining interests would reduce assets outside oil and chemicals to less than 10 per cent of operating capital.

By the end of 1988, B.P. had proved crude reserves of 5.22

billion barrels, around 219 million more than a year earlier. It produced 539 million barrels during the year.

Walters said the joint effect of

the \$4.3 billion sale of the company's minerals interests and a \$1.95 billion buy-back of a chunk of its

14-year-old shooting star...

CHICAGO (AP) — At 6-foot-10, 220.68 mètres) and 32 points a game, Redhead Griffith is drawing plenty of attention from college basketball coaches. But they will have to wait a while to get him — he's only 14 years old. College usually starts at age 18.

NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Here's a roundup of National Basketball Association games Friday night:

Hawks 408, Cavaliers 100

ATLANTA (AP) — Moses Malone scored 11 of his 21 points in the final period, including four key free throws and a dunk in the final 1:27, powering the Atlanta Hawks to a 108-100 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Hawks became the first team to beat Cleveland three times this season, despite blowing a 16-point third-quarter lead.

Nets 129, 76ers 127

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Roy Hinton scored six of his 24 points in overtime, leading New Jersey to a 129-127 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Ron Anderson had 29 points and Charles Barkley 28 for the 76ers, who saw their three-game winning streak end while the Nets snapped a three-game losing streak.

Heat 103, Hornets 102

MIAMI (AP) — Rory Sparrow beat the buzzes with a turnaround jumper from the free-thrown line, giving Miami a 103-102 victory over expansion rival Charlotte.

The heat, now 6-12, trailed 98-95, but a 15-foot (4.5-metre) shot and a 3-point shot by Sparrow tied the game at 100.

GOREN BRIDGE

By CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHANIF

West Tribune Media Services, Inc.

TAKE THE ONLY CHANCE

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH

* Q 5 4
* Q 7 6
* 8 4 2
* 2 6 5 2

WEST

* 7 6 3
* 10 9 8 5 1
* 10 6 5 3
* Q

EAST

* A K
* A K Q J
* K J 10 9 4

SOUTH

* A K
* A K Q J
* K J 10 9 4

The bidding:

South: West, North, East, 2. 2. Pass, 2. NT. Pass, 3. 0. Pass, 4. 2. Pass, 6. 4. Pass, Pass, Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

There are those who claim it is better to be born lucky than rich. We're not convinced — money can provide considerable balm for an awful lot of bad breaks in life. We are not sure if South's financial standing, but from this hand, we do know that he is blessed with good fortune.

After North took a club preference, South elected to gamble on a

small slam. After all, he needed no more than the queen of clubs in partner's hand to be a lock for 12 tricks.

West led the top of his heart sequence, and the hand was over at trick two. Declarer won and, with no entry to dummy to take the trump fitness, banged down the king of clubs. When that fetched the queen, declarer claimed all the tricks except for the ace of clubs.

Now no one can quibble about the fact that declarer was lucky to find a singleton queen of clubs.

However, we should give him credit for realizing that that was the only chance he had for his contract.

If the trumps were 2-2, there was no way declarer could have avoided losing two trump tricks, so he had to hope for a 3-1 split. And a singleton ace would not have helped him.

That would mean that one of the defenders held the queen guarded twice. A low trump from declarer would bring down the ace, but the queen would still be guarded and would not drop under the king.

Perhaps we should reconsider.

There is something to be said for "buma fortuna" at the bridge table.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"The church bazaar is selling stuff people don't use anymore. Want to contribute your lips?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Nn ticket, no coat

FREGI

SAUPE

TORICE

MUNCOL

Now arrange the circled letters in form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: NOVEL DRAMA BYGONE SCHEME

Answer: Credit might be the means to live like this — BEYOND-ONES MEANS

Honeyghan faces fine, ban after drugs tests

LAS VEGAS (AP) — British welterweight Lloyd Honeyghan faces a possible fine and suspension after testing positive for a painkilling drug, a Nevada boxing official said Friday.

"If he keeps his head together, keeps his books up (studies diligently) — and he's doing a fine job of that now — he should turn out to be a fine athlete," Parrot said. "The sky's the limit if he stays healthy."

Parrot said he had talked to coaches who observed Chamberlain at the same age, and say Griffith is more advanced. Predictions are that the boy could reach 7-5 (2.25 metres).

Chamberlain was 6-11 (2.10 metres) when he enrolled in Philadelphia's Overbrook high school in 1951 and he wrote in "Wilt," his autobiography that "I had college and pro scouts looking at me by the time I was in the ninth grade."

At least 50 colleges have sent "profile charts" for Griffith to fill out so they can monitor his progress in the next two or three years.

But Griffith already is tiring of the fuss.

"I didn't know what to expect at first," Griffith said. "My coach told me what would be like this and to be prepared. But it's starting to get on my nerves when somebody calls you up and tells you why you should make to take any medicine or injections they have or make sure the commission approves of it ahead of time."

Ghanem, a medical doctor, said lidocaine is a painkilling agent similar to novocaine given patients in a dentist's office. It is commonly used in injections for relief of tennis elbow or bursitis.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

World Cup ski event cancelled

OSLO, Norway (AP) — A World Cup event in ski jumping scheduled for March 2 in Skuibakken near Oslo has been cancelled due to lack of snow, organisers Baerum Skiklubb announced. The club said transportation of snow from the mountains, or use of snow-producing machinery, have been outruled because of high costs.

Graf ploughs on

FAIRFAX, Virginia (AP) — Steffi Graf, continuing her methodical devastation of the field in the Virginia Slims of Washington tournament, blasted seven aces Friday in a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Helen Kelesi that put her in the semifinals of the \$300,000 tournament. Graf needed only 49 minutes to eliminate Canada's top-ranked player, surrendering only seven points on her serve and 25 overall. Graf has now lost only three games in three matches this week and has averaged a mere 43 minutes per outing. She will next face the winner of the Natalia Zvereva-Licila Meskhi match, which was to be held Friday evening.

Claydon grabs halfway lead

MELBOURNE (AP) — English amateur champion Russell Claydon fired a 4-under-par 69 Friday to earn a share of the halfway lead at the Australian Masters championship. Claydon was at 11-under-par 135 after 36 holes along with Australian Peter Fowler and Craig Parry. "I enjoyed it again, it was good fun," he said. The chunky Briton added the 69 to his first round score of 66. Parry had a 67 Friday, while Parry shot a 68. Australian Bob Shearer, who shot a 69, was next at 136. Two shots back were New Zealander Greg Waite, who had a 71, and Australian Greg Norman, who recorded his second successive 69 over the par-73, 6,955-yard Huntingdale course. Claydon said he believed he could win the event.

Calvin Smith says he was cheated

TORONTO (AP) — Calvin Smith, the 100-metre world record holder until Ben Johnson broke his mark at the 1987 world championships in Rome, says he feels cheated out of track and field's most coveted record. Smith's mark of 9.93 seconds stood for four years until Johnson ran a 9.83 in Rome. The U.S. sprinter suspected then that Johnson was using performance-enhancing drugs and that belief has strengthened since Johnson's disqualification for steroid use at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. "I don't think he could have gone that fast without the drugs," Smith said Thursday in a telephone interview from his Florida home. "Knowing Ben and his progression and the way I feel things went along the last two years, I did not feel he could set a world record."

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There is a feeling of mental pressure along with a need to communicate. The tendency is to talk about matters that are sensitive and to say things that are confusing. So before speaking, think about the effect your words will have.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Never give up, keep on laughing and Arises the field with a smile. Get back into your true spirit as positive energy is flowing again.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Shop for home furnishings and plan springtime maintenance projects. A short trip to a favorite spot is recommended.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) The day may feel like not much is happening. The later day brings lively action with friends and family. Domestic affairs rate high.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Lend support to young family members' projects. Know when to stand pat and when to give in where sharing is involved.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Avoid dwelling on frustrations from the past. Set a new agenda that is more eventful. Avoid playing favorites when dealing with siblings.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Change your thinking to positive and throw out emotional spooks that affect self-confidence and security. Prepare for the week ahead.

Wimbledon, Liverpool claw back

LONDON (R) — Reigning F.A. Cup champions Wimbledon and beaten finalists Liverpool flirted with fifth round defeat Saturday before turning up the power to snuff out the ambitions of Grimsby and Hull.

Half-time inspired visions of glory for the two northeastern clubs with Grimsby, from the lower reaches of the Fourth Division, leading Wimbledon 1-0 and second division Hull 2-1 ahead of official said Friday.

But the dreams lasted little longer than the interval. The two matches had barely restarted before the big-name clubs took control to record wins by 2-1 and 3-2 respectively.

John Aldridge produced a double strike for Liverpool in the space of 60 seconds, equalising with a header from a cross by Peter Beardsley in the 52nd minute and the two sides will replay at Old Trafford Wednesday to decide who goes into next month's quarter-finals.

Hull's home de at least gave their star striker Keith Edwards, the leading scorer in all competitions among current players, the

chance to equal his personal record of scoring in eight successive games.

Edwards gave Hull a 2-1 lead one minute before the interval when he seized on a header from Billy Whitehurst, author of the side's first goal in the 34th minute after John Barnes had scored for Liverpool.

Favourites Liverpool, already missing striker Ian Rush because of a knee injury, also lost Scottish international defender Gary Gillespie just 10 minutes into the match when he was hurt in a clash with Andy Payton.

West Ham survived to reach the quarter-finals despite being reduced to 10 men for the whole of the second half at Charlton.

Midfielder Mark Ward was sent off in the 44th minute for elbowing Colin Pates in the face.

With their major rivals occupied with the cup — Nottingham Forest and Watford play their fifth round tie Sunday — Arsenal missed a clear chance to double their First Division lead to six points.

World Youth Soccer Cup

Iraq beats Norway, Brazil tower over East Germany

TAIF (AP) — Spain on Friday weathered a furious rally by Argentina, recording an upset in group D of the world youth soccer cup championships.

Becker, a 21-year-old West German ranking 4th in the world, struggled one hour and 59 minutes before defeating unseeded Sweden Christian Bergstrom 7-6, 7-5 at Milan's Palatrucci arena.

The other semifinal, Saturday, will pit two unseeded players West Germany's Eric Jelen and Alexander Volkov of the Soviet Union.

McEnroe, who is seeking his fifth victory in Milan, took 57 minutes to defeat Cherkasov, who had been dubbed as a spoiler following upset wins against fifth-seeded Henri Leconte of France and experienced Australian Wally Masur in the two previous rounds.

McEnroe, combining winning volleys with powerful serves and well placed returns, overwhelmed Cherkasov, 18-year-old native of Kaliningrad. The veteran American player has conceded only 14 games to the opponents in the tournament so far.

McEnroe, who is ranking 9th in the world, broke the opponent's serve twice in each set.

"I felt comfortable, I never had problems," McEnroe said after victory.

Cherkasov looked like a player of great potential. But experience allowed me to manipulate the play, and he became discouraged."

Becker certainly had problems in his quarterfinal match.

Bergstrom, 21, played consistent tennis and fine backhand shots from the baseline to step close to a sensational victory.

The Swede led 8-7 in the first set tie-break. Two winning volleys and a doubtful ace gave Becker a hard-fought 10-8 lead in the breaker and the set.

Diego Pablo Simeone was the most valuable player, even striking the free-kick from the top of the box. The ball curled over the wall and into the net.

But the Argentine joy was short-lived as 15 minutes later Moises Garcia Leon showed superb opportunism by running in the ball after Argentina goalkeeper Roberto Oscar Bonano bumbled a high back pass.

And when Carlos Gustavo Gastaldi was penalised for handling inside the penalty area while trying to avert a high centre from Antonio Pinilla Miranda, the balance swung in Spain's favour.

Argentina began well and there was a 12th minute goal from skipper Diego Pablo Simeone, but two defensive lapses cost the Argentines.

Goalkeeper Roberto Oscar Bonano's failure to hold onto a high pass from Moises Garcia Leon in the 27th minute tied the score and a 57th minute penalty by David Villabona Etxaleku sealed Spain's victory.

Match play was fast and at times rough. Two Argentines — Diego Pablo Simeone and Fernando Ariel Batista — and three Spaniards Felipe Herrero Baeza, David Villabona Etxaleku and Justo Ruiz Gonzalez — were shown the yellow card.

The Argentines could still have come with full points had Humberto Fabian Biazotti capitalised on the two clear chances created by Diego Pablo Simeone, who had to scythe through a host of defenders in the later stages of the second half to put his colleague clear.

But on both occasions, Humberto Fabian Biazotti struck straight into a charging goalkeeper Jose Santiago Camizales Ruiz.

The Syrians started putting pressure on the Russians, and in the second half play switched quickly between the goals. They brought in Ali Sheik Dib, replacing Abdullah Saddikah in the 18th minute of the second half.

The Syrian coach, Ibrahim Bakhdar, who is a Russian, told newsmen later that the team was "unexperienced."

He also complained that the team "did not follow his instructions."

Bakhdar also said Arab teams "tend to concentrate more on the offensive, and forget the defense" side of the game. The coach said he was trying to change that, but had "not succeeded with this team."

Soviet coach Boris Ignatov said he was frankly "surprised" and "pleased" with the results, yet complained about his team's performance while praising the Syrians for their tactics.

"We could not fulfil the goals set, and the performance of the team was not up to par in this game," he said.

He also said there were a lot of tactical errors his team had made, and they performed poorly defense-wise.

In Jeddah, Brazil gave a classic

Premadasa names cabinet

COLOMBO (AP) — President Ranasinghe Premadasa Saturday swore in 21 cabinet ministers but retained three posts for himself, including the defence portfolio.

Premadasa, who was elected president two months ago and whose United National Party won a parliamentary majority Wednesday in the bloodiest election in Sri Lankan history, did not designate a prime minister immediately.

More than 1,000 people were killed in the five-week-long campaign, including 56 on election day. Authorities blamed most of the deaths on a Sinhalese extremist group, the People's Liberation Front, but said some killings were carried out by Tamil separatist guerrillas.

The new cabinet is dominated by Sinhalese, the ethnic majority that has controlled the island nation's government and military establishment since independence from Britain in 1948. Two Muslims and one Tamil joined 18 Sinhalese ministers.

In addition to heading the ministry of defence, Premadasa also will serve as minister for planning and for promotion of Buddhism, the faith of most Sinhalese.

An official in the president's secretariat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said ministers would soon be appointed to foster Hinduism, the religion of the Tamil minority, and Islam, but that these ministers would not hold cabinet rank.

Shahul Hameed, a Muslim and the previous foreign minister, was named minister of high education, science and technology.

The United National Party won 125 of the 225 parliament seats in an election that both Sinhalese extremists and Tamil separatists tried to disrupt. About 63 per cent of the country's 9.3 eligible voters turned out to cast ballots, despite the death threats by extremists.

Sinhalese make up about 75 per cent of the population of 16 million people, while Tamils account for 18 per cent and Muslims about seven per cent.

The Tamil separatist war in northern and eastern Sri Lanka broke out in 1983 and has claimed more than 8,500 lives.

Foremost on Premadasa's list of priorities is an anti-poverty programme that he be-

comes will help ease ethnic tensions.

The new foreign minister is Ranjan Wijeratne, chairman of the United National Party. The finance minister is D.B. Wijetmge, who was telecommunications minister under Jayewardene.

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IRNA quoted Rushdie's statement in full but said he had "made no indication of his re-pentance or that his slanderous book would be withdrawn."

The Foreign Office was not consulted on the contents of the statement but a spokesman said the publishers had been in touch with officials since the uproar began.

"If the statement serves to cool passions then nobody could say that was not a good thing," the spokesman said.

There was no immediate reaction from the more fundamentalist Muslim leaders in Britain, some of whom burned the book in the northern city of Bradford last month.

Iranian demonstrators stoned the British embassy in Tehran Wednesday in protest at the book but none of the three diplomats and support staff was hurt.

Rushdie, 41, said earlier that his fictional book, a surrealistic account of a battle between good

and evil, was not meant as an insult to Muslims.

France said Saturday its ambassador to Iran would not return to Tehran for the time being pending consultations on the Iranian threat to kill the author.

A government spokesman said envoy Christian Graeff was in Paris and had been asked by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to postpone his return to Iran. He confirmed the move was linked to the Rushdie threat, which Paris had condemned.

The spokesman said Graeff had been due to return to Iran Sunday. He noted that Dumas and his 11 European Community (EC) colleagues would be discussing the crisis at a regular meeting in Brussels next week.

West Germany said Friday it had withdrawn its charge d'affaires from Tehran for consultations after Khomeini ordered the killing.

The radio quoted a statement from the Union of Islamic Students' Associations in Europe as saying members would do all they could to obey the Iranian leader's order.

"We... will utilise all our capabilities to obey and implement the religious decree of the imam of the nation," the statement said.

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